

SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Skegness
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my tenth
Annual Report.

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	4,411.788
Number of inhabited houses 1944	3,200
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1944	£101,439
Product of a penny rate	£385

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS DURING THE YEAR.

	Total	Males	Females
Births	218	116	102
Deaths	121	64	57

Number of women dying in	from Sepsis	Nil
consequence of childbirth:	from other causes	"

Deaths of infants under one year of age	5
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Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
" " Measles	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil
" " Cerebro Spinal Fever	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	PULMONARY		NON PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON PULMONARY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1								
5								
15	3			2				
25	2	2						
35	5	4			2			
45					1			
55	2				1			
65 and upwards		1		1	1			
Totals:	12	7		3	4			

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are:-

	Total cases notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11	11	Nil
Diphtheria	4	4	1
Erysipelas	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	2	Nil	Nil
Measles	2	2	Nil
Whooping Cough	3	3	Nil
	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>1</u>

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. There were no cases notified during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health, and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital; Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch. B. (St.And).

Sanitary Inspector Superintendent of house and trade refuse removal; S. James, (1) Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute (2) Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food.

Matron of Isolation Hospital Miss M. Morrison, State Reg. Nurse.

NURSING:

I am indebted to Miss M. Walker, the Secretary to the District Nurse Association, for the following reports of the District Nurses' work :-

General Nursing Visits	3409
Maternity and Midwifery Visits	1693
Ante-Natal	209
Post-Natal	116
Maternity and Midwifery Cases	95

I consider the above figures speak highly of the good work done by our District Nurses.

SKEGNESS INFANT WELFARE

Attendances. 451 Mothers and 486 Children were registered at the Clinic during the year. The Centre is open every Friday from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. Doctor and two Health Visitors are in attendance. Various duties are also carried out by members of the Infant Welfare Committee and friends. Baby clothes are made and sold at very reasonable prices.

Immunisation. Children are immunised on the third Friday of each month.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the first and third Fridays in each month from 10.30 a.m. A qualified dentist attends periodically.

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juice are dispensed from the Centre every Wednesday and Friday.

The Orthopaedic Clinic is held at the Centre each week, and our children attend for treatment when necessary.

I am indebted to Mrs. D. T. Edwards for the above excellent report and for which I tender my grateful thanks. I also wish to thank the nurses and Committee of the Association for their excellent work throughout the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The hospital for infectious diseases is situated in an isolated position on the Wainfleet Road, and is about 2 miles from the town.

There are 16 beds available for residents and visitors.

The buildings consist of one ward block, one cubicle block, administrative block, also outhouses and housing for steam disinfectors.

I must express my thanks to the Matron (Miss M. Morrison) for the skill and careful attention given to all patients whilst in hospital.

The hospital proved adequate during the year to deal with all cases of infectious disease which arose.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Approximately 480 children under five years of age or 59% and 1,020 children between the ages of five and fifteen years or 84% had by the 31st December, been immunised under the Council's scheme.

Only four cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. There were no cases reported amongst those persons who had been immunised, and there was one death.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There is a local centre for the treatment of venereal diseases and sessions are held each week.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. A clinic for this purpose is established at Skegness.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The general health of the town has been good during the year.

SCAVENGING.

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies, and cess-pools in the area is carried out by the Council.

This work was carried out during the year under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector in a most efficient manner.

The most important work in this connection is Salvage which requires constant thought and attention. Excellent results were obtained during the year from this source.

SANITARY INSPECTION of the AREA.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary conditions and water supply at the public elementary schools are excellent.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the Schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee.

SHOPS ACT.

Inspections are made from time to time and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

HOUSING.

The general housing conditions are good. A number of houses were overcrowded at the end of the year. The need for small dwelling houses has become acute, and it is hoped that a number of temporary houses will be erected to meet the more pressing needs, until such time as houses of a more permanent character can be provided.

REPORT ON HOUSING ACTS INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

MEAT AND FOOD.

The three private slaughter-houses situate in Richmond Drive are visited by your Council's Sanitary Inspector during hours of slaughter.

The inspection of meat now takes up a good deal of time necessitating many hours overtime being worked.

The number of visits paid in connection with food inspection will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is stored or prepared for sale have been regularly inspected.

MILK SUPPLY.

Frequent visits have been paid to the cowsheds and dairies in the area. A good standard of cleanliness is maintained. Twenty samples of ordinary milk were submitted for analysis and of these three were found to be unsatisfactory.

Eleven samples of milk were submitted for biological examination, and all gave a negative result.

Twelve samples of pasteurised milk were examined and six were found to be unsatisfactory.

One producer of pasteurised milk after appearing before the Health Committee, had his licence revoked, and this licence had not been renewed at the end of the year.

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS ORDER, 1936.

There is one licensed purveyor of Pasteurised Milk, three licensed dealers of Tuberculin Tested Milk. One licence is granted to an establishment to bottle Accredited Milk.

BAKEHOUSES.

Frequent visits have been paid to the bakehouses in the district. These are clean and well kept.

There are no underground bakehouses.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The County Council is the Authority for carrying out this act.

WORKSHOPS.

These were inspected periodically, and it was found in one or two instances that the attention of the occupier had to be drawn to the uncleanness of sanitary conveniences or want of limewashing of internal wall surfaces. These matters were put right without resorting to formal measures. The work carried on is mainly motor repairs, dressmaking and millinery, cycle repairs, joinery, photography and upholstery.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

Accommodation and Staff. The present accommodation for in-patients is Twenty-three Beds and Nine Private Wards, including the Maternity Section of Four Beds and Three Private Wards.

With the continuance of the heavy demands on the Nursing and Medical professions made by the Fighting Services, the problem of maintaining the staffs of our Voluntary Hospitals at a level sufficient to ensure the satisfactory and adequate treatment of civilian patients remains one of considerable difficulty. Despite exceptionally heavy calls made upon them, the devotion of the Matron (Miss E. R. Dunster) and her Staff to their onerous duties, and the cheerfulness with which those duties have been carried out, merit the congratulations and commendation of the Committee and patients alike. In this connection, grateful acknowledgement should be made of the valuable help given by members of the Civil Nursing Reserve and the local Red Cross Detachment.

Medical Officers. The local Medical Staff consists of Drs. M. Backwell, W. Brownlie, D. F. Menzies, and J. D. O'Neill. With the exception of Drs. Backwell and O'Neill, on service with H.M. Forces, all have been in regular attendance throughout the year. Dr. O'Neill has recently been released from Army service after a protracted spell of duty abroad, and a cordial welcome is extended to him on his return to his Skegness practice and to active work as a member of the Hospital's Medical Staff.

The Hospital Rules provide that any duly qualified medical practitioner practising in the district may be allowed to attend a patient in the Hospital provided such a patient has been up to or is at the time of admission under his private medical charge.

In-Patients.

Normal Complement of Beds at 31st December, 1943	32
Average Number of Beds during year	32
" " occupied	(1943: 18) 24
Number of in-patients	(1943:511) 693
Patient days	(1943:6465) 8873
Average stay of each Patient in Hospital	(1943:12.7) 12.8 days
Remaining in on 1st January	7
Admitted: Male	181
Female	211
Maternity	152
Babies born	142
	<u>686</u>
	<u>693</u>

Of the Male and Female cases referred to above, 158 were Medical and 241 Surgical (including 24 accidents).

Results: Discharged from Hospital	360
Died (including 10 within 48 hours of Admission)	23
Still in at end of year	16

Operations performed: 183 (Major) and 18 (Minor).

Maternity Ward.

Admitted	152
Ante-natal admissions - 11 Deliveries	141
Results to Mothers:- Discharged	146
Died	1
Still in at end of year	5
Infants Born alive	142
Still-born	1
Results:- Infants: Discharged	134
Died	4
Still in at end of year	4

NOTE- Patients booked for the Maternity Ward can attend for ante-natal care on Thursday afternoons. Since this service was inaugurated on 1st June last the number of such attendances has been 483.

Out-patients' Department.

Total number of attendances	681
Attendances for dressings	481
" " Minor operations	200

X-Ray Department.

Number of cases dealt with	1340
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Contributory Scheme.

The Contributory Scheme which was commenced during the year has met with an excellent response. Already there are 4,400 members of the scheme. Any member by the contribution of 3d. per week ensures himself of all types of Hospital Treatment free. It is hoped everyone in the town will become members of the scheme.

I append the Sanitary Inspector's report and would take this opportunity of stating my pleasure in carrying out my duties under a Council so earnest in the desire to ensure perfectly healthy conditions for the town.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.)

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Report of work done by the Sanitary Inspector
for the year 1944.

TOTAL NO. of NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.	Nil
(1) By the Local Authority	Nil
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	Nil
1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:-	
(1) a. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	120
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	270
(2) a. Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head.) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	100
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	99
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-	
(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	one
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
a. by owners	Nil
b. by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-	
a. by owners	5
b. by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses subject to under-takings	Nil

	(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. - OVERCROWDING.

a.(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil
(11)	Number of families dwelling therein	Nil
(111)	Number of persons dwelling therein	Nil
b.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	Nil
c.(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	Nil
(11)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
d.	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved.	Nil
e.	Number of licences granted under Section 61.	Nil

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS, etc.

.	No. inspected during the year	Nil
	No. of nuisances therefrom abated	Nil
	No. removed from district	Nil

BAKEHOUSES.

	No. in district	9
	No. of underground bakehouses	Nil
	No. of Inspections	36
	Contraventions of Factory Acts	2
	Defects remedied	2

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

	No. on register	3
	No. of Inspections	daily
	Contraventions of by-laws	Nil
	Defects remedied	Nil

COWSHEDS.

	No. on register	13
	No. of Inspections	52
	Contraventions of regulations	3
	No. of milch cows in the district	approx. 160

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

	No. on register	8
	No. of inspections	32
	Contraventions of regulations	1
	Contraventions remedied	1
	Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	No

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of premises in district	8
Number of inspections	30
Contraventions of by-laws	2
Contraventions remedied	2

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Number of shops inspected	18
Additional heating or ventilation	Nil
Additional sanitary conveniences	Nil

WATER SUPPLY.

WELLS.

New sunk	Nil
Cleansed, repaired	Nil
Closed as polluted	Nil

PUBLIC SUPPLY.

Area supplied	Whole area
Percentage of houses supplied	100%
New Cisterns provided	Nil
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered etc.	Nil
Number of samples obtained for analysis	
(a) from wells	Nil
(b) from public supply	6
Any insufficiency and where	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

CLOSETS.

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	3
Number of houses with pail closets in district	37
Number of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	Nil
Number of pail closets repaired	6
Number of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles	Nil
Number of houses with water-closets in district	3,294
Number of water-closets repaired	50

DRAINS

Drains examined, tested, exposed etc.	12
Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	55
Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected repaired, etc.	27
New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed	7
Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired	11
Drains reconstructed	3

SEWERS

New lengths of sewer laid	Nil
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CESSPOOLS

Cesspools rendered impervious	Nil
Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc.	weekly
Cesspools abolished	Nil

DISINFECTION

Rooms disinfected	33
(a) ordinary infectious disease	23
(b) tuberculosis	10
Rooms stripped and cleansed	46

HOUSE REFUSE

Number of covered ashpits	7
Number of uncovered ashpits	Nil
Number of bins substituted for ashpits	Nil
Number of houses using bins	3,327
Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavengers?	Council
How often is refuse removed from each house?	Weekly.
Number of complaints of non-removal	Nil
Method of final disposal	Salvage and Controlled Tip.
Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	Yes

NUISANCES

Total number of nuisances during the year	
(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	36
(2) Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued	4
-do- -do- not issued	2

DETAILS OF NUISANCES ABATED

	After Informal Intimation.	After Stat. Notice.
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil
Smoke	2	"
Accumulation of refuse	7	"
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	Nil	"
Foul pigs and other animals	11	"
Dampness	14	"
Yards repaved or repaired	Nil	"
Other nuisances	6	"

OTHER APPOINTMENTS HELD BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Petroleum Officer
 Cleansing Superintendent
 House Refuse Removal and Disposal etc.

Supplementary remarks to Sanitary Requirements of District, and extended notes from any of the foregoing entries.

Infectious Disease Visits	35
Visits to Food Premises etc.	52
Rodent Control Visits	75
Miscellaneous Visits (These are visits in connection with house refuse removal and disposal, salvage matters and visits to Estate Agents, Owners and Builders)	717

